

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 East 1st STREET, LOWER LEVEL
April 23, 2002
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Greg Holtz, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Whiting, Vice Chair
Mr. Michael Graham
Ms. Susan Klecka
Ms. Teresa Cotton
Dr. Carlos Vallejo

MEMBERS ABSENT

Elaine Nelson (Excused)

GUESTS

Teresa Brice-Heames
Bob Justin
Karen LaFrance

STAFF

Ms. Debbra Determan
Ms. Nichole Wamble
Mr. Bryan Raines

WELCOME

Greg Holtz called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. by taking roll call and introducing the guests.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Teresa Brice-Heames talked about the affordable housing conference that was held in Tucson. She wanted to make sure that the Board was aware of the draft report released by the Arizona Housing Commission entitled the *Arizona Affordable Housing Profile*. It is an analysis of the affordability gap in 17 communities throughout Arizona. She also wanted to announce the housing policy subcommittee meeting, which will be held at Housing for Mesa at 10 A.M. on Friday.

REVIEW MINUTES OF MARCH 26th MEETING

Michael Graham commented that the minutes he received were not signed. Susan Klecka made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting, which when filed shall be signed by Staff. Motion was seconded and carried.

Staff sent the second copy requested by Michael Graham and that copy was not signed since it was an email copy.

HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Susan Klecka made a motion to approve the FY 02/03 recommendations for funding made by Mesa City Staff. Carlos Vallejo seconded the motion. During discussion Teresa Cotton wanted more information on why Planned Parenthood received no funding recommendation. Staff explained that Planned Parenthood has various opportunities for other funding sources available to them that some of the other agencies do not have. An official vote was then taken on the motion and was passed unanimously.

Greg stated that in the past this process had taken a long time primarily because some of the Board's input was not considered by Staff but this time around Staff openly solicited information from each Board member on these agencies. Greg said it is important for Council to know that the Board did not simply rubber stamp Staff recommendations; but that the Board's input was

included in the recommendations. He said a lot of hard work; some compromising and negotiating went into coming up with these recommendations. He also announced that four new agencies received funding: Central Arizona Shelter Services, Lutheran Social Ministries, Community Information and Referral and Phoenix Shanti Group.

OTHER COMMENTS

Susan Klecka said that Staff needed to be commended on the work they have done working with the Board and all of the time they spent putting the recommendations together.

Carlos Vallejo stated that as a group the Board has come a long way and part of it was because of the leadership, which should be acknowledged. Carlos suggested that a letter be written to the appropriate City officials informing them of the openness and leadership that Staff provided.

Michael Graham questioned what the yellow underline was on the funding recommendation report. Debra Determan reminded him that at the retreat one of the things they discussed was looking at what some of the Human Service needs are, as well as gaps in the system. She said, Mesa together with Tempe, Mesa United Way, and Scottsdale are trying to put together a needs assessment. In order to do that, all of the cities and the Mesa United Way have to set aside funds. Mesa Human Services has budgeted \$9,051.

Debra thanked Board members and staff all their hard work. She then stated, "I would like it put on record that staff would hope to have some funds available throughout the year so that we could help those agencies that realize funding cuts later in the fiscal year. But with the reduced funding that we had available, we thought that that was not possible." She stated that in the near future we may need to look at a mechanism for contingency funding. She stated that after the new fiscal year, there will be some nonprofits that will be in financial difficulty. Debra stated, "We did what we could with the money that we had and we thank you for your involvement in that process."

UPDATE OF ADVISORY BOARD REPLACEMENTS

Debra reported that there are currently two vacant Board positions that Staff is working with the Mayor's office in getting the replacements. She also thanked the Board for rating their choices as who might be selected for that opportunity.

Michael Whiting was then asked for an update on his status as a Board member. He stated that he has sat on the Board for two terms, and he desired to rotate off at the end of this term. So with a heavy heart he has asked that his term not be renewed for a third term.

Debra explained that there are two different processes in filling the vacancies. In the first process, the top name Ken Salas and the third top name Nancy Marion were sent to the Mayor's office and in the second process, the second top name was a replacement for Eldon Husted from Area 2. A letter was then sent out to all the area neighborhoods in Area 2 inviting people to a neighborhood meeting in order to meet and talk with Len Locke the top applicant for that particular position. The Board is invited to attend that meeting which will be held in the Council Chambers on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. She said the Mayor's office would notify staff when the appointments are official.

Greg Holtz said that it is important that Council knows that the chosen candidate needs to be brought up to speed on issues being addressed by the Board. He asked the Board for concurrence,

"That the Board strongly recommends that the person who is recruited be reviewed by Council as soon as possible. June is too late to have fair representation on this Board." All were in concurrence. The question was asked what about the status of Nancy Marion. Debbra explained that Nancy Marion's position would be a replacement for Michael Whiting who will be actively involved until the 30th of June.

The Board asked why it is taking so long to fill the position. All Board members feel that the position should be filled sooner than June. Carlos Vallejo stated it was an unusual situation and perhaps the Board could request the Mayor expedite the process.

Debbra stated the Mayor's office has initiated a New Board Member Orientation. In addition Staff has created a new Board meeting schedule indicating an orientation specific to housing and human services, August 6, 2002.

STAFF REPORTS

Nichole reported that she wanted to thank the board as she has worked with a few boards but this one has definitely been the most enjoyable with which to work.

Greg thanked Nichole for putting together the Power Point presentation for the Vision and Goals/Objective Statements. Nichole distributed to all members for comments a copy of the presentation, which she drafted after the last meeting. It was stated that it is important for the Council know what their vision is and what some of their goals and objectives are. Nichole said that this presentation should go before Council at a study session sometime in June.

Greg Holtz then presented speaking notes the vice-mayor, Jim Davidson, gave before the State of Arizona Housing Commission in February. He stated that the vice-mayor gave very good and very informative information about the City of Mesa and housing in general. Greg thought there were some things in the notes of which the Board should be aware.

Greg wanted the Board to note the public hearing for the General Plan 2025 on April 25th at Mesa Community College and also a public hearing at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2 in the upper level City Council chambers. It is important the Board members attend. With regard to Mesa 2025, Greg stated that in that website they now have the individual elements. As of April 17th, the housing element is available in section 7.

Debbra gave a brief update on the point in time homeless study completed in Mesa on the number of homeless. The Human Services Department is working with MAG and the HUD application they are putting together and the gaps analysis. She will bring that report to the May meeting and the Board can talk about the study and what the Board might want to do with that data now that the information is available. Also, how the Board might want to plan and use that information in the future or how the Board might collaborate with the police department. She reported that when Mesa conducted their portion of the Point in Time Study, 319 individuals were counted.

Nichole is also working on a Homeless Case Study specifically looking at barriers to service. She will keep the Board informed as to what is going on as the process continues.

Carlos stated that the Board seems to be reactionary and wonders if perhaps the Board should try to educate the community about issues pertaining to Housing and Human Services. Greg stated

that the Board cannot set policy but can advocate and make recommendations. It was suggested that the Board become proactive instead of reactive.

Discussion then centered on the day labor center and how the Board could be proactive in such issues and take an advocacy role.

Motion was made to adjourn, was seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Determan, Human Services Staff